

RISING URBANISTS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE 22ND CENTURY

Organized by the ASLA-NY Student Chapter at the City College of New York this multi-disciplinary conference offers an opportunity to imagine the potential for green infrastructure to act as a catalyst in driving urban design into the 22nd century. The Rising Urbanists Conference is geared toward students and professionals in architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, urban design, urban planning, real estate, and sustainability throughout the tri-state area. We are hosting this event to foster lasting relationships between emerging professionals in allied fields.

MODERATOR:



ANDREW LAVALLEE

SITWORKS | FASLA, RLA

A partner at Site Works Landscape Architecture. Over the past 28 years, he has worked as a designer, construction manager, and operations strategist for projects including parks, green roofs, sports facilities, streetscapes, interior gardens, brownfield restorations and residential developments. He is a recognized leader in the application of green infrastructure strategies including urban reforestation and stormwater management. He is a co-author of the award-winning *High Performance Landscape Guidelines: 21st Century Parks for New York City* (Design Trust for Public Space, 2011). Mr. Lavallee is also an Adjunct Professor with the Landscape Architecture Graduate Program at City College in New York.

KEYNOTE 9:30 - 10:15 AM



MARK FOCHT

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER /

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NYC PARKS | FASLA

Mr. Focht is a licensed landscape architect with over 30 years in private, public, non-profit and academic areas of practice. He has served as First Deputy Commissioner of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, managing a 10,200 acre system of civic space. Prior appointments include Executive Director of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System; Director of the park's Environment, Stewardship & Education Division and Director of Capital Projects for the Center City District (Philadelphia, PA). Additionally, Mr. Focht has over ten years' experience with two multi-disciplinary design firms and was an adjunct professor in Temple University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture from 1989-2010. Mr. Focht was inducted as a Penn State University Fellow in 2015 and has received Alumni Achievement Awards from the University of Massachusetts (2013) and Penn State University (2007). He was inducted as a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects in October 2008 and served as the Society's Vice-President for Communications in 2010/11 and President-Elect, President and Immediate Past-President in 2013-2015.

PANEL 1: 10:30 - 12:00 PM

HOW CAN WE DESIGN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH GREATER IMPACT?

- Learn how to determine the major functions, current and potential components of Green Infrastructure in the public and private realm

- Identify strategies for successful collaboration and meaningful support between engineers, architects, and landscape architects on Green Infrastructure projects

- Identify opportunities to integrate Green Infrastructure into each aspect of future built projects



REBECCA HILL RAFT

Rebecca Hill is a partner at RAFT, a landscape architecture firm in Brooklyn, NY. She specializes in developing new opportunities for incorporating high-performance landscape techniques into the urban environment to solve contemporary challenges. In addition to studying landscape responses to climate change, she has conducted original research on the structure of neighborhoods in

Berkeley, Los Angeles, Kyoto, and post-WWII Soviet Bloc. In 2013, she won a New York State Council on the Arts Grant to study the catastrophic flooding in upstate New York after Hurricane Irene. She has been an invited speaker at the Mohawk River Watershed Conference and the Mighty Waters Symposium sponsored by Congressman Paul Tonko. Currently, she is a Fellow at The Design Trust for Public Space. Rebecca has a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Swarthmore College and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.



DAVID SEITER FUTURE GREEN STUDIO | RLA

David Seiter is design director and founding principal of Future Green - a landscape design build studio in Brooklyn NY. His portfolio encompasses award-winning private and public-use projects - with recent high-profile commissions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Brooklyn Children's Museum, urban park and streetscape projects including Journal Square Park in Jersey City, NJ and

the Half Street Streetscape in Washington DC. David is author of the book *SUP: Weeds in NYC* - a book about the overlooked ecological value of weeds in the urban landscape. He founded the website spontaneousurbanplants.org which won a 2015 National Honor Award in Research from the American Society of Landscape Architects. David is a licensed Landscape Architect in New Jersey, Maryland, and



THOMAS REEVES FXFOWLE | LEED, GA

Thomas Reeves joined FXFOWLE in 2012 as a designer in the Urban Studio. He achieved his Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University, and his Master of Science in Building Construction and Sustainability from the University of Florida.



ALEX RENNER E- DESIGN

Alex Renner graduated from Drexel University with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. At Drexel he concentrated in water resource and geotechnical engineering. Alex has experience in both design and construction aspects of engineering.

He has worked on projects ranging from residential and commercial development to heavy highway construction. Alex is intent on designing innovative, ecologically minded solutions to emerging and historic challenges in infrastructure development and human interaction with the environment.

PANEL 2: 1:00 - 2:30 PM

HOW CAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ENGAGE MORE PEOPLE AND PLACES?



SHAUN O'ROURKE **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR,** **THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

Shaun O'Rourke leads the implementation services for the Climate Smart Cities Program. Prior to joining The Trust for Public Land, Shaun served as the Director of Sustainable Design at the Boston Architectural College. He has worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer and Project Manager and is currently a member of the Faculty in the School of Landscape Architecture at the Boston Architectural College. Shaun holds a MLA from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from University of Vermont.



JASON SMITH **BIODIVERSITY ECOLOGIST,** **NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Jason's first encounter with the complexities of the natural world occurred as a photojournalist working in the state of Maine. Joining the NYSDEC in 2006 as part of the State Wildlife Grants program, the majority of Jason's current work focuses on conservation planning for NY's sensitive species in the urban environment, and management of NY's migratory breeding birds especially the black skimmer. Jason holds both an Associate (Fish and Wildlife Management) and Bachelor (Environmental Science) degree in Applied Science from Paul Smiths College, as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Creative Writing & Photography) from the University of Southern Maine.



LINDSAY CAMPBELL **USDA FOREST SERVICE, NYC URBAN FIELD STATION**

Lindsay K. Campbell is a research social scientist based at the New York City Urban Field Station, a partnership between the Forest Service and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Her current research explores the dynamics of urban politics, stewardship, and sustainability policymaking. She is co-PI on several long term, interdisciplinary research projects. The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project maps the social networks and spatial turf of civic, government, and private actors working on environmental stewardship in New York City. Landscapes of Resilience explores stewardship of natural resources post-disturbance in Joplin, MO and New York City. She is a member of the NSF-funded ULTRA-EX team examining changes in land cover, ecosystem services, and stewardship in New York City's urban forest. Dr. Campbell holds a BA in Public Policy from Princeton University, a Masters in City Planning from MIT, and a PhD in Geography from Rutgers University.



THOMAS RAINER **CO-AUTHOR, PLANTING IN A POST-WILD WORLD | RLA**

Thomas, a leading voice in ecological landscape design, has designed landscapes for the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and The New York Botanical Garden, as well as over 100 gardens from Maine to Florida. He is a specialist in applying innovative planting concepts to create ecologically-functional designed landscapes. Thomas serves as a Principal for the landscape architectural and planning firm Rhoadside & Harwell in Washington, D.C. where he leads many of the firm's green infrastructure projects. He also teaches planting design at the George Washington University Landscape Design program. His recently published book co-authored with Claudia West, *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, has been widely received as a ground-breaking text for its vision of a new hybrid of ecology and horticulture.

2:40 - 4:15PM GOWANUS BLUE CHARRETTE: DESIGNING FOR ZERO CSOS

- Establish an analytic framework for designing Green Infrastructure projects based on spatial and temporal shifts in hydrological and hydraulic infrastructures
- Learn methods for understanding a watershed-based approach to solving water quality issues resulting from combined sewage outfalls
- Identify a Green Infrastructure kit-of-parts relying on multiple disciplinary perspectives, ranging from how to finance to how to design and maintain a project

INTRODUCTION: 2:45-3:15 PM



ANDREA PARKER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOWANUS CANAL CONSERVANCY

Andrea Parker has a passion for regenerating urban green infrastructure through civic engagement. As the Executive Director of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, she works to empower a community of environmental stewards and design advocates in the rapidly changing Gowanus Watershed.

As an instructor at City College of New York, she engages landscape architecture students with the complex ecological, economic and cultural forces at play in NYC's dynamic urban ecology. In her previous work as a Landscape Designer, she focused on urban and community resilience after Superstorm Sandy, as well as gained experience in public garden master-planning and residential design and construction administration. Her prior background as a gardener and nursery propagator enriches her design and advocacy work with a pragmatic understanding of how landscapes are built and maintained. She received a BA from the University of Chicago, studied Landscape Horticulture at Merritt College, and received a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia

WORKSHOP: 3:15-4:15 PM

Break into interdisciplinary groups to address design challenge. Present



Image: Gowanus Canal Conservancy

CONCLUSION: 4:15-5:00 PM

Short presentations of designs followed by final remarks by Andrew Lavallee.